

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, US, IS

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S INDEPENDENCE EVE

INTERVIEW

1. SUMMARY: IN TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENCE EVE RADIO AND TV INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER, YITZHAK RABIN APRIL 16 COVERED RANGE OF QUESTIONS ON PEACE PROSPECTS, FUTURE OF ISRAEL, NEED FOR CHANGES IN SOCIAL VALUES, REFORM IN ISRAELI LIFE, AND U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS. RABIN SINGLED OUT HISADRU FOR SCATHING INDICTMENT OF ITS ANTIQUATED STRUCTURE, MULTIPLICITY OF WORKS COMMITTEES AT ENTERPRISE LEVEL AND TENDENCY FOR ANNUALLY ELECTED UNION LEADERS TO TAKE EXTREME POSITION TO BE REELECTED. RABIN STRESSED NEED FOR ISRAEL TO REMAIN MILITARILY STRONG TO ACHIEVE PEACE. HE CALLED FOR NEW VALUES IN NATIONAL, SOCIAL AND PUBLIC LIFE, AND URGED BASIC REFORMS IN VARIOUS SPHERES. WHILE ISRAEL IS DEPENDENT ON US TO MAINTAIN ITS WAY OF LIFE, HE DENIED CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN US/ISRAEL WERE IN STAGE OF CRISIS. RABIN WARNED ISRAEL TO KEEP COOL AND ACT WISELY TO OVERCOME PRESENT DIFFERENCES OF OPINIONS WITH US. IN ONLY MAJOR PUBLIC REACTION TO INTERVIEW TO DATE, HISTADRU HAS CALLED FOR SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS RABIN'S CRITICISMS. END SUMMARY.

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2. PROSPECTS FOR PEACE: RABIN REFUSED TO PROPHECY OR TO USE SUCH TERMS AS " OPTIMISTIC" OR PESSIMISTIC. HE POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL TODAY IS MUCH STRONGER THAN IT WAS 27 YEARS AGO. " IF WE BELIEVE IN PEACE, AND ALSO PREPARE FOR WAR, WE SHALL ACHIEVE PEACE." RABIN STRESSED THAT " WITHOUT READINESS FOR WAR", ISRAEL CANNOT SURVIVE. HE NOTED THAT IN 1948 WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, IDF HAD UNIQUE HISTORICAL FEELING OF

ESTABLISHING JEWISH STATE. UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF JEWISH HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING FAITH AND OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES.

3. ISRAEL IN TEN YEARS: BY VIRTUE OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAST 27 YEARS, RABIN BELIEVED IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE IN NET 10 YEARS " PERHAPS NO LESS THAN HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST 15-20 YEARS."

4. VALUES: RABIN NOTED THE ZIONISTIC VALUES OF THE PAST. ISRAEL AND THE WORLD TODAY ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE PERIOD WHEN ZIONISM BEGAN. HE REJECTED THE NOTION THAT ISRAEL MUST BE AN " ABSOLUTELY NORMAL NATION". " NEW CONTENT AND NEW TASKS MUST BE FOUND TO MAKE ISRAEL A FOCUS FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE," RABIN SAID, BUT THEN ASKED, "...HOW DO WE ACCUSTOM OURSELVES TO THE NEW REALITY, INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY?" THIS HE REGARDED AS A CENTRAL QUESTION FOR EVERYONE.

5. MORAL STRENGTH: MORAL STRENGTH REQUIRES CONSTANT NURTURING. FOR THE ISRAELI, IT IS LINKED TO TWO BASIC COMPONENTS "NO ALTERNATIVE", AND "FAITH IN WHAT WE ARE DOING". A UNIQUE FEATURE OF THE IDF, RABIN NOTED IS THAT THE IDF DOES NOT FOSTER FIGHTING SPIRIT THROUGH HATRED OF THE ENEMY, BUT THROUGH POSITIVE VALUE OF PRESERVING WHAT ISRAEL HAS ACHIEVED AND "THE HOPE TO CONTINUE TO BUILD A BETTER ISRAEL."

6. FUTURE SOCIAL VALUES: RABIN ASSERTED THE NEED FOR A GREATER EFFORT TO CHANGE SOCIAL VALUES IN ISRAEL. THIS IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE ALONE BUT OF PUBLIC INITIATIVE AND ACTIVITY. RABIN CITED WORK OF RALPH UNCLASSIFIED

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NADER IN US AND ASKED "WHY SHOULD A RALPH NADER NOT ARISE IN ISRAEL?" HE COMMITTED GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO UNDERCOVER ALL CORRUPTION AND TO PROSECUTE THE GUILTY. HE NOTED RECENT REPORT ON REFORM OF TAX LAWS AS DEALING NOT MERELY IN "FINANCIAL MATTER" BUT AS MOVING TOWARD A CHANGE IN SOCIAL NORMS (BY ELIMINATING FICTITIOUS ALLOWANCES INTENDED TO EVADE INCOME TAXES).

7. THE HISTADRUT: IN TURNING TO THIRD AREA OF REFORM,

RABIN CITED NEED FOR EFFICIENT USE OF OANPER.# TAKING HISTADRUT AS EXAMPLE, RABIN CHARGED: "THE ORGANIZATION OF THE TRADE UNIONS IN ISRAEL IS AMONG THE MOST ANTIQUATED ANYWHERE." HE COMPARED ITS PRESENT ORGANIZATION ALONG VOCATIONAL LINE AS BELONGING TO THE MIDDLE AGES. HE URGED THE US SYSTEM OF TRADE UNIONS ORGANIZED ALONG INDUSTRIAL LINES. RABIN ALSO COMPLAINED THAT IN MANY WORK PLACES THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT WORKS COMMITTEES REPRESENTING DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS WHILE IN THE US THERE IS A SINGLE WORKS COMMITTEE. RABIN URGED CALLING STRIKES AND ENDING STRIKES BY SECRET BALLOT, AND HOLDING ELECTION OF WORKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR PERIODS LONGER THAN ONE OR TWO YEARS SO THAT THE MEMBERS "WILL NOT ALWAYS BE LIVING UNDER THE NIGHTMARE THAT IF THEY DO NOT ACHIEVE SOMETHING THEY WILL NOT BE REELECTED."

8. OTHER REFORMS: RABIN CALLED FOR REFORM IN EDUCATION-- PARTICULARLY A BETTER TEACHING OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY AS IS DONE IN THE US, AND THE REDUCTION OF INEQUALITIES. HE BELIEVED THAT "SIDE BY SIDE WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS IN THE SPHERE OF FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY, IF WE DO NOT START A PERIOD OF REFORM IN THE COMPONENTS OF OUR LIFE WE SHALL BE COMMITTING A GRAVE CRIME."

9. DEPENDENCE ON THE US. RABIN NOTED THAT EVEN LARGE COUNTRIES, AND CERTAINLY SMALL ONES, DEPEND ON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR THEIR WAY OF LIFE. HE CLAIMED ALL US AID TO ISRAEL IS SPENT IN THE US.

10. US PRESSURES: WHILE THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION TODAY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US, THE PRESENT SITUATION UNCLASSIFIED

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CANNOT BE REGARDED AS A CRISIS. THIS IS A PERIOD FOR ISRAEL TO "KEEP COOL", RABIN WARNED "WHILE STANDING UP FOR OUR POSITION". THERE HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT PERIODS IN THE PAST BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL, AND "IF WE ACT WISELY, IF WE DO NOT TURN EVERYTHING INTO A PUBLIC HYSTERIA, WE CAN ALSO CONFRONT THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.."

11. REACTION TO RABIN'S INTERVIEW. ONLY REACTION SO FAR TO INTERVIEW CAME FROM HISTADRUT, WHICH HAS SCHEDULED SPECIAL MEETING TO TAKE UP THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHARGES AGAINST IT. SINGLE EDITORIAL IN APRIL 17 PRESS ON INTERVIEW IN MAARIV, ADVISED THAT HISTADRUT WOULD DO WELL TO REFER TO RABIN'S SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS RATHER THAN TO FEEL OFFENDED. MAARIV ADDED THAT "WHILE THE COMPARISON OF HISTADRUT TO MIDDLE AGE GUILDS WAS UNJUSTIFIED..

THERE ARE MANY FIELDS IN WHICH REFORM AND MODERNIZATION  
ARE NEEDED."

12. COMMENT: RABIN'S STATEMENT, FOR MOST PART,  
CONTAINED LITTLE THAT IS NEW. HOWEVER, HIS FOCUS ON NEED FOR  
CHANGES IN SOCIAL VALUES AND REFORM IN ISRAELI LIFE ARE  
SENSITIVE ISSUES IN ISRAEL AND ARE CERTAINLY WIDELY SHARED. IT  
IS NOT CLEAR WHY HE WAGED FRONTAL ATTACK ON HISTADRUT AT THIS  
TIME, AN ATTACK CERTAIN TO PROVOKE  
ANGRY REPOSE.  
DOZIER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AMB KEATING.

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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